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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/336,031	06/18/1999	KEVIN CURTIS		7183

7590 11/30/2006
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EXAMINER

COLBERT, ELLA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3694

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/336,031

Applicant(s)

CURTIS ET AL.

Examiner

Ella Colbert

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 18-30, 33-36, 39, 40 and 43-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 18-30, 33-36, 39, 40 and 43-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/17/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 12-15, 18-30, 33-36, 39, 40, and 43-49 are pending. Claims 12, 13, 25, 26, 39, and 43-49 have been amended in this communication filed 9/12/06 entered as RCE and Request for Extension of Time.
2. The IDS filed 10/17/06 has been considered and entered.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/12/06 has been entered.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because Figures 1a, 1c, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 16 do not comply with the margin rules for drawings. The margins should be as follows: at the top at least 2.5 cm. (1 inch), a left side margin of at least 2.5 cm (1 inch), a right side margin of at least 1.5 cm (5/8 inch), and a bottom margin of at least 1.0 cm (3/8 inch). See MPEP 35 USC 1.84. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as

"amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 23, 24, and 26 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 23 is in improper method claim format. Claim 23 recites "if the normalized symbol, ..., and ...; wherein each master symbol is structured ... ". This claim should recite "searching a contributor database to find a predominant use segment if the normalized symbol contains an unresolved segment; ...; and corresponding respectively to the at least one symbol field defined by the symbol template, wherein each master symbol is structured ... ". Claims 24 and 26 have a similar problem. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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7. Claims 12, 23, 25, 26, and 43-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted suggested steps are: Claim 12, receiving at a computer, an information element and an input symbol; normalizing the input symbol, based on a historical pattern of a submitter of the input symbol, to generate a normalized symbol, said normalized symbol being in a standardized form according to a predetermined structure; normalizing the input symbol based on a historical pattern of the submitter of the input symbol includes applying one of a set of character rules and a set of process rules to the input symbol to generate the normalized symbol; searching a master symbol database using the normalized symbol after applying one of the set of character rules and the set of process rules to find a matching master symbol and linked parent identifier; searching an information element database to find an information element linked to the parent identifier; and retrieving from the information element database an information element linked to the parent identifier, wherein each master symbol is structured according to a symbol template containing at least one symbol agent corresponding to the at least one symbol field defined by the symbol template (another step is need here to include "one symbol segment" and the "master symbol database") otherwise there is a disconnect with the claim limitations. Claims 25 and 43-49 have a similar problem.

Claim 23 after step three should recite "storing in the master symbol database at least one linked parent identifier and at least one information element; searching a contributor database to find a predominant use segment if the normalized symbol contains an

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unresolved segment; and assigning the predominant use segment from searching the contributor database to the unresolved segment, wherein each master symbol ...".

Claim 26 has a similar problem with steps being omitted.

The dependent claims 13-15, 18-22, 24, 27-30, and 33-36 are rejected for their dependency on a rejected base claim.

Suggestions: incorporate "linking each master symbol in the master symbol database to a parent identifier that identifies a unique object".

"Providing an input symbol wherein users archive or retrieve symbolically linked information from an information database".

"Wherein a parent identifier linked to the matching master symbol is used to retrieve or archive information in the information database".

Also, Applicants' should look at the reasons why the other related application was allowed and to incorporate similar claim limitations into the independent claims of this application to place the application in condition for allowance.

Inquiries


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 571-272-6741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 5:30AM-3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

November 21, 2006


ELLA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER